

Detroit band brings punk, ska to Omaha

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songs are definitely punk and the ska songs are definitely ska.

"Within a song, it may switch from punk to ska such as in a chorus," Grant said. "Lately, we've been playing more hard-core though."

The band has had two releases before their Hollywood record debut. The first was a Green World cassette in 1994 that is now unavailable. In 1995, they did a "bootleg style" split album with the Rudiments called "Skank for Brains." The band hasn't sold the latest record at its shows for the past six months.

"A not very nice man was selling the CD for personal profit, not giving anything back to the band," Grant said. "We stopped selling it, not because we weren't making any money, but because we want to make it worthless for him. We also put several songs off of that album onto the new one (Destruction by Definition.)"

The Suicide Machines credit touring, college and smaller radio stations and the Internet as reasons that the band name has gotten out. The band has toured constantly since last May's release of "Destruction."

Grant thinks the most memorable gigs they do are the nude shows.

"We've done a few nude shows," Grant said. "One time in Florida, we did a show inside a store with our backsides facing a glass window at the front of the store. People just walking by would see four naked guys."

Expect anything to happen when the Suicide Machines open for the Descendents Sunday at the Ranch Bowl. It probably will.

Descendents revisit roots, take old-school punk on tour

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This scholarly front-man of the Descendents repeatedly earned them intelligent, alternative-dork accolades way before Weezer ever hit the scene.

"Music and science are mutually exclusive for me," Aukerman said, explaining that he continually had to take time off from the band while he was going to school at UCSD — precipitating the necessity of the band All.

Finally in 1987, Aukerman decided to do biology research with plants at Wisconsin, thus placing the Descendents on extended hiatus.

"Science can satisfy something for me that music can't, but about a year ago I got to the point where I began writing music again and I gave Bill (Stevenson) a call and things got started," Aukerman said.

After recording an album, the Descendents hit the road and have done about 15 shows.

"All has a lot to do with the success of our shows," Aukerman said. "They kept the fans and the spirit alive. The arrangement with All works well, we share audiences and share resources."

Aukerman also said the new Descendents tour shouldn't be seen as a reunion.

"This trendy reunion thing doesn't really apply, the band has always existed, just under a different name," Aukerman said. "I am just inserting myself again as vocalist."

Aukerman denies that the Descendents will ever hit it as big as other power pop successes like Green Day.

"We don't dress punk, we don't act punk. We're not aware of the trends, which are coming and going. We're just a rock band, and that's why we are still around," Aukerman said.

The all-ages show starts at 9:00 p.m. Sunday at the Ranch Bowl.

Journalist calls remembering hard

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been 25 years since Hunter S. Thompson's seminal "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" was published, but he still remembers ... well, remembering was always the hard part.

"It took me about two years of work to be able to bring a drug experience back and put it on paper," the godfather of gonzo journalism said in the Nov. 28 issue of Rolling Stone.

"And to do it right means you

3-year-old chosen as new Oscar Mayer kid
ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Three-year-old Andrew Thompson is the newest Oscar Mayer Wiener kid, outdoing 65,000 other entrants in singing the jingle.

The youngster from Smyrna, Tenn., will get \$5,000 for his gospel rendition of the wiener song, a spot on an Oscar Mayer television commercial that will air on Super Bowl Sunday on Jan. 26, and a trip to the Super Bowl.

must retain that stuff at the same time you experience it," he said. "You know, acid will move your head around and your eyes, and whatever else you perceive things with. But bringing it back was one of the hardest things I had ever had to do in writing."

Thompson, 59, hasn't quite figured out the present.

"God knows what the hell the '90s are. They are just brazen with rules. Rules are worshiped," he said.

He made his debut Tuesday at Sea World and said the highlight of his evening was getting kissed by Shamu, Sea World's killer whale.

But Andrew said that didn't compare with the reception he got last week in Nashville, when he was welcomed by Lorianne Crook on the syndicated show "Crook & Chase." Crook, the boy said, is a better kisser than Shamu.



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